ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing technique for enabling the extraction of a region of interest from non-compressed files and compressed files in a format other than the JPEG 2000 format is disclosed. Specifically, a compression unit to perform a compression process on an image using the JPEG 2000 format and a decompression unit to perform a decompression process on an image compressed using a format other than the JPEG 2000 format are provided. The designation of a region of interest for an image file stored in a storage region is allowed, and it is determined whether the image file is a non-compressed file or a compressed file in a format other than the JPEG 2000 format. When it is determined that the image file is a non-compressed file, the file is compressed by the compression unit. When it is determined that the image file is a compressed file in a format other than the JPEG 2000 format, the file is decompressed by the decompression unit before being compressed by the compression unit. Then, blocks corresponding to the designated region of interest are extracted from the compressed image and output.